

**CLAIMS:**

1. A water-based cement paint which includes, as constituents thereof, cement particles and water, the paint being  
5 characterized in that  
the cement particles are uncured cement particles, the paint also including, as a constituent, colloidally-sized particles of polymeric material capable of forming a stable colloid in water, the paint being in the form of a homogeneous blend of said constituents, the cement particles forming 5 - 40% by mass of the paint and the  
10 colloidally-sized particles forming 0.25 – 10% by mass of the paint.
2. A paint as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the cement particles are run-of-the-mill portland cement particles, the cement particles forming 10 - 30% by mass of the paint and the colloidally-sized particles forming 1 – 6% by mass of the  
15 paint.
3. A paint as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the cement particles form 12 – 18% by mass of the paint, the colloidally-sized particles forming 1.5 – 3% by mass of the paint.  
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4. A paint as claimed in any one of Claims 1 – 3 inclusive, characterized in that the cement particles are grey portland cement particles.
5. A paint as claimed in any one of Claims 1 – 3 inclusive, characterized in that  
25 the cement particles are white portland cement particles.

6. A paint as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the colloidally-sized particles are fibrous in shape.

5 7. A paint as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polymeric material is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

8. A paint as claimed in any one of Claims 1 – 7 inclusive, characterized in that it includes, as a constituent thereof, an uncured particulate elastomer capable of  
10 curing upon exposure thereof to the atmosphere.

9. A paint as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that the elastomer is a latex, the latex forming 5 – 60% by mass of the paint, and having an average particle size in the range 0.08 – 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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10. A paint as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the latex forms 20 – 50% by mass of the paint, the latex having a particle size in the range 0.1 – 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ .

11. A paint as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it  
20 includes 0.1 – 0.6% by mass of a hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener.

12. A paint as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes 1 – 15% by mass of a pigment.

13. A paint as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that the pigment is a particulate inorganic pigment, the pigment forming 2 – 10% by mass of the paint and having an average particle size in the range 0.05 - 100µm.

5 14. A process for formulating a water-based cement paint as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, the process being characterized in that it includes the steps of:

10 suspending the colloidally-sized polymer particles in water to form a colloidal suspension; and

admixing the cement particles with the colloidal suspension to form a blend of the water, cement and colloidally-sized polymer particles.

15 15. A process as claimed in Claim 14, characterized in that it includes the step of admixing the elastomer particles with the water to form the colloidal suspension, before the admixing of the cement particles with the suspension.